

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 - 8 (**Canceled**).

9. (**Currently amended**) A piezoelectric actuator comprising
- a multilayered structure of piezoelectric layers (2) with inner electrodes (3, 4) interspersed between the piezoelectric layers, and
- outer electrodes (5, 6) and
- layers of an adhesive band of insulating material contacting the inner electrodes (3, 4) on alternating sides, wherein the regions between the outer electrodes (5, 6) are provided with a suitable insulation (7, 8),
- the insulation being a layer covering only precisely the region ~~over a predetermined region~~ between the outer electrodes (5, 6), and in a tension free manner.
10. (**Previously presented**) The piezoelectric actuator according to claim 9, wherein the adhesive band is an adhesive tape (7, 8).
11. (**Previously presented**) The piezoelectric actuator according to claim 9, wherein the band or adhesive tape (7, 8) is comprised of a precisely measured, prefabricated material.

12. **(Previously presented)** The piezoelectric actuator according to claim 10, wherein the band or adhesive tape (7, 8) is comprised of a precisely measured, prefabricated material.
13. **(Previously presented)** A method for producing a piezoelectric actuator according to claim 9, the method comprising sticking or rolling the band (7, 8) in place in a bubble-free manner.
14. **(Previously presented)** A method for producing a piezoelectric actuator according to claim 10, the method comprising sticking or rolling the band (7, 8) in place in a bubble-free manner.
15. **(Previously presented)** A method for producing a piezoelectric actuator according to claim 11, the method comprising sticking or rolling the band (7, 8) in place in a bubble-free manner.
16. **(Currently amended)** A ~~The~~ method for producing a piezoelectric actuator **having**  
**a multilayered structure of piezoelectric layers (2) with inner electrodes (3, 4)**  
**interspersed between the piezoelectric layers, and**  
**outer electrodes (5, 6) and**  
**layers of an adhesive band of insulating material contacting the inner electrodes (3,**  
**4) on alternating sides, wherein the regions between the outer electrodes (5, 6) are provided**  
**with a suitable insulation (7, 8),**

**the insulation being a layer covering only precisely the region between the outer electrodes (5, 6), and in a tension free manner, the method** ~~according to claim 9~~, comprising the step of melting, vulcanizing, or sintering the band (7, 8) in place in a bubble-free manner.

17. **(Previously presented)** The method for producing a piezoelectric actuator according to claim 10, comprising the step of

melting vulcanizing or sintering the band (7, 8) in place in a bubble-free manner.

18. **(Previously presented)** The method for producing a piezoelectric actuator according to claim 11, comprising the step of

melting vulcanizing or sintering the band (7, 8) in place in a bubble-free manner.

19. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 13, wherein the band (7, 8) is applied through local or general area heating and/or pressure or rolling.

20. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 16, wherein the band (7, 8) is applied through local or general area heating and/or pressure or rolling.

21. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 19, wherein the tolerance-encumbered shape of the corners or edges (9, 10, 11, 12) is subjected to a shaping procedure at least at the corners or edges (9, 10, 11, 12) of the piezoelectric actuator (1).

22. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 20, wherein the tolerance-encumbered shape of the corners or edges (9, 10, 11, 12) is subjected to a shaping procedure at least at the corners or edges (9, 10, 11, 12) of the piezoelectric actuator (1).

23. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 13, wherein the band (7, 8) is supplied in the form of a strip on a roll and is cut to length before or during application onto the piezoelectric actuator (1).

24. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 16, wherein the band (7, 8) is supplied in the form of a strip on a roll and is cut to length before or during application onto the piezoelectric actuator (1).

25. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 19, wherein the band (7, 8) is supplied in the form of a strip on a roll and is cut to length before or during application onto the piezoelectric actuator (1).

26. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 21, wherein the band (7, 8) is supplied in the form of a strip on a roll and is cut to length before or during application onto the piezoelectric actuator (1).